

In re: Dube *et al.*
Appl. No.: 09/624,820
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providing a mixture consisting essentially of high fructose corn syrup and sodium hydroxide;

subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to produce a flavorful composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 150°C;

applying said flavorful composition directly to a tobacco material selected from the group consisting of tobacco leaves and cut fillers made thereof; and
preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco material.

15. (Amended) A method for improving the flavor and aroma characters of a smoking article comprising:

providing a mixture consisting essentially of a reducing sugar and a hydroxide of an alkali metal;

subjecting said mixture to heat treatment for a time and under conditions sufficient to produce a flavorful caramel composition, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 150°C;

applying said flavorful composition to a tobacco leaf or cut filler made thereof; and
preparing a smoking article comprising said tobacco leaf or cut filler.

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein the heat treatment is conducted at a temperature of at least about 175°C.

23. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the hydroxide is present in an amount of less than about 30 weight percent on a water-free basis.